

who can afford to procure the necessary nursing, this is all that is necessary. Amongst the poor, however, where the whole family lives in a few small and ill-ventilated rooms, and where the patient must often be left without the nursing he needs, the case is different. "How is such a helpless patient to remove his sputum, so that it may do no harm?" Incidentally, the testimony of this giant amongst men of science to the value of trained nursing should here be noted. In common with other great men of his profession Dr. Koch bears generous testimony to the value of the work of the younger profession of nursing. A measure which he considers specially valuable is the obligatory notification of the tuberculosis as in combating all infectious diseases it has proved indispensable as a means of obtaining certain knowledge as to their state, especially the discrimination, their increase or decrease; therefore, in the conflict with tuberculosis we cannot dispense with obligatory notification.

#### CONSUMPTION CURABLE.

Lastly, we must quote from Dr. Koch's lecture a statement, which coming from so great an authority is a message of hope to thousands:—

"That tuberculosis is curable in its early stages must be regarded as an undisputed fact. The idea of curing as many tuberculosis patients as possible in order to reduce the number of those that reach the infectious stage of consumption, and thus reduce the number of fresh cases was, therefore, a very natural one. The only question is whether the number of persons cured in this way will be great enough to exercise an appreciable influence on the retrogression of tuberculosis."

Dr. Koch, however, believes that if we utilise the experience gained in the past, the battle against tuberculosis cannot fail to have a victorious issue.

### Impressions of the British Congress on Tuberculosis.

BY A NURSING DELEGATE.

The proceedings of the British Congress on Tuberculosis have abounded in discussions full of interest and instruction to members of the nursing profession. It is astonishing that so few nurses were present at the meetings, and that, although the discussions were not limited to members of the medical profession, veterinary and social science being considered in their connection with tuberculosis, the question of nursing the phthisical was barely touched upon. With the exception of Dr. Symes Thompson

few, if any, of the speakers appeared to realise how great is the share of the trained nurse, and especially those engaged in district or parish work, in the crusade against tuberculosis by educating the masses in cleanly and hygienic modes of life.

Many speakers laid great stress on the value of the discipline maintained in Sanatoria, and on the absurdity of patients being sent either on sea voyages or to foreign health resorts without proper medical supervision; one authority, indeed, going so far as to say that although he had a high opinion of climate he had a still higher opinion of suitable dietetic and hygienic treatment, whilst another speaker remarked that if he could only have an ideal climate without proper medical care for his patient he should prefer the care without the climate.

According to Dr. Symes Thompson this medical care can best be exercised in the case of poor patients in public Sanatoria, and for the well-to-do, either in private Sanatoria or in Nursing Homes. In his paper on "Open air treatment in Institutions and in Nursing Homes," he laid great stress upon the assistance to the physician in his treatment of consumptives by the constant supervision of a highly trained Nurse-Matron, in a properly conducted Nursing Home, for, "just as a surgeon prefers a surgical home if he has a serious operation to perform, and considers it desirable to move his patient from his house, so the physician who has a critical case of any disease has far greater confidence in a Nursing Home."

The value of the discipline maintained in a thoroughly well-managed Home by a competent staff of nurses, under the direction of a capable and experienced Matron is, in fact, of great service to the physician, for it is to them very largely due that his directions are faithfully and loyally carried out by the patients in his absence. According to Dr. Symes Thompson, nowadays, patients are learning to accept the authority of the Spa doctor, to recognise the important function of the trained nurse, and to obey rigid rules of treatment, and, may we add, to realise that upon these particulars very largely depend their hopes of a cure.

By way of contrast to the value placed upon the skilled services of the trained nurse by Dr. Symes Thompson, the speech of Dr. Jane Walker may be considered. She strongly advocated the employment of Sanatorium patients of the working-class as domestic workers in the Institution and its garden, mentioning "nursing" (!) presumably of their fellow patients! among the various duties of dusting, bed-making, gardening, etc., to be performed by them.

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